

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8889

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

EUCOM

USUN NEW YORK 1886

USMISSION NATO

CINCUSAFE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 3139

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MARR, MASS, TU, PFOR

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVIEW WITH UPI CORRESPONDENT

REF ANKARA A 3097

1. WE NOTE THAT PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL IN TELEVIZED INTERVIEW APRIL 20 WITH UPI CORRESPONDENT REFERRED TO U.S. ARMS EMBARGO TO TURKEY IN SAME MODERATE TERMS USED BY FOREIGN MINISTER LAST WEEK (REFTEL). HE ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THERE WOULD BE NO ARMED CLASH BETWEEN GREECE AND TUKEY OVER GREEK ARMAMENT OF ISLANDS IN AEGEAN.

2. DEMIREL SAID, "HOW LONG WE WILL WAIT FOR THE LIFTING OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO RESTS WITH DEVELOPMENTS TO

TAKE PLACE IN THE U.S. CONGRESS IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS." TURKEY, HE SAID, WOULD ALLOW REASONABLE PERIOD TO PASS TO SEE IF THE ARMS EMBARGO WOULD BE LIFTED. DEMIREL SEVERAL TIMES STRESSED ESSENTIALLY FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN U.S. AND TURKEY AND THAT TURKEY HAS DONE NOTHING TO DAMAGE THOSE RELATIONS. WHEN ASKED IF TURKEY WOULD CLOSE U.S. BASES IF FORCED TO TAKE ACTION, DEMIREL REPLIED THAT HE WOULD NOT MENTION ANY SPECIFIC ACTIONS. TURKEY DOES NOT WANT TO DAMAGE RELATIONS WITH U.S. EVERYONE HOPES THAT CONGRESS WILL CHANGE ITS POSITION AND LIFT THE SUSPENSION OF AID. WHAT TURKEY WILL DO WILL BE DECIDED AFTER CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.

3. DEMIREL ALSO TOUCHED ON NATO, CYPRUS, AND AEGEAN PROBLEMS. HE SAID THAT IF U.S. AID IS NOT RESUMED TURKEY WILL DEFINITELY REVIEW HER DEFENSE COMMITMENT TO NATO. TO QUESTION OF WHAT HE THOUGHT WOULD BE SOLUTION TO CYPRUS PROBLEM, DEMIREL RESPONDED THAT BIZONAL FEDERATION WILL BE THE ONLY SOLUTION. WHEN PROBED WHETHER TURKEY WOULD CONCEDE SOME OF THE TURKISH OCCUPIED AREA, INCLUDING FAMAGUSTA, DEMIREL SAID HE COULD NOT SAY TURKEY WOULD GIVE UP ANYTHING AND COULD ONLY REITERATE THAT BIZONAL FEDERATION IS ONLY SOLUTION. DEMIREL EXPRESSED HOPE THAT GREECE AND TURKEY WILL NOT CLASH IN AEGEAN BUT ADDED THAT SITUATION WOULD BE SERIOUSLY WORSENERD IF GREECE CONTINUES TO MILITARIZE ISLANDS IN AEGEAN IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. MACOMBER

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